

Remarks

In response to the Office Action dated September 19, 2006, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. In the present application, independent claims 16 and 30 have been amended and claims 18, 21, 26, 32, 35, and 40 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 16 and 30 have been amended to clarify that the communications system includes a secure server and wherein the message server utilizes an encryption method to communicate an encrypted SS7 message indicating that the incoming message awaits retrieval with the secure server of the communications system, the SS7 message including indicia identifying the computing device via the communications line coupled to the computing device, wherein the encryption method is based on a security code corresponding to the communications line, and wherein the security code is shared between the message server and a central office comprising the secure server in the communications system. Support for these amendments may be found on page 8, line 20 through page 9, line 9 in the Specification. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, claims 18 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 16, 20, 22-27, 29-30, 34, 36-41, and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bossemeyer, Jr. et al. (US Pat 6,490,444, hereinafter Bossemeyer) in view of Henderson (US 6,724,867). Claims 21 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bossemeyer and Henderson, and further in view of Cook (US 6,732,101).

Applicant's Statement of the Substance of the Interview

A telephonic interview between the undersigned representative for the Applicants and the Examiner was held on January 16, 2007 to discuss proposed claim amendments with respect to the rejection of independent claims 16 and 30 over Bossemeyer, Henderson, and Cook. In the

interview, a discussion was held with respect to amending the claims to clarify that the communications system includes a secure server and that the message server utilizes an encryption method, based on a security code shared between the message server and a central office comprising the secure server in the communications system, to communicate an encrypted SS7 message with the secure server of the communications system. The Examiner stated that she would update her search and consider the proposed amendment in Applicants' subsequent response.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

In the Office Action, claims 18 and 32 are rejected as allegedly containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. As noted above in the section entitled "Amendments to the Claims," claims 18 and 32 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 18 and 32 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 16, 20, 22-27, 29-30, 34, 36-41, and 43

Claims 16, 20, 22-27, 29-30, 34, 36-41, and 43 are rejected as being unpatentable over Bossemeyer in view of Henderson. Claims 26 and 40 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejection of these claims as moot. The rejection of the remaining claims is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 16 specifies a system for notifying a computing device of an incoming message. The system includes a message server coupled to a data communications

network for receiving the incoming message; a public communications system coupled to the message server, the message server for securely communicating to the communications system that the incoming message awaits retrieval by the computing device; and a communications line coupled to the communications system and to the computing device, the communications system for signaling the computing device over the communications line that the incoming message awaits retrieval by such computing device, wherein the incoming message includes a destination address associated with the computing device, and wherein the communications line is identified by an identifier, the system further comprising a database associating the destination address with the identifier, the message server accessing the database and determining the identifier based on the destination address and communicating to the communications system that the incoming message awaits retrieval by the computing device at the communications line as identified by the identifier, wherein the communications system signals the computing device over the communications line by providing a recognizable dial tone signal that is different than a regular dial tone signal in response to the computing device periodically and automatically causing the communications line to be off-hook wherein the communications system includes a secure server and wherein the message server utilizes an encryption method to communicate an encrypted SS7 message indicating that the incoming message awaits retrieval with the secure server of the communications system, the SS7 message including indicia identifying the computing device, via the communications line coupled to the computing device, and wherein the encryption method is based on a security code corresponding to the communications line and wherein the security code is shared between the message server and a central office comprising the secure server in the communications system.

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Bossemeyer and Henderson fails to teach, disclose, or suggest each of the features specified in amended independent claim 16. For example, the aforementioned combination of references fails to disclose that the communications system includes a secure server and wherein the message server utilizes an encryption method to communicate an encrypted SS7 message indicating that the incoming message awaits retrieval with the secure server of the communications system (the SS7 message including indicia identifying the computing device) via a communications line coupled to the computing device, wherein the encryption method is based on a security code corresponding to the communications line, and wherein the security code is shared between the message server and a central office comprising the secure server in the communications system.

Bossemeyer discusses a telecommunication system for indicating receipt of a message including the generation of a message waiting indicator which may be a data signal (Col. 2, line 65 through Col. 3, line 16). Bossemeyer however, is silent with respect to the communication of an encrypted SS7 message indicating that the incoming message awaits retrieval with a secure server, the SS7 message including indicia identifying the computing device, via a communications line coupled to the computing device, wherein the encryption method is based on a security code corresponding to the communications line, and wherein the security code is shared between the message server and a central office comprising the secure server in the communications system. Bossemeyer merely discusses that the message waiting indicator may be a data signal in the form of alphanumeric text or a numeric string. Moreover, Bossemeyer fails to disclose a secure server or secure communications (Col. 3, lines 25-38).

Henderson, relied upon in the Office Action for allegedly curing the deficiencies of Bossemeyer merely discusses the automatic message transfer from a remote messaging system to

a local communication device by using signals received along with a dial tone on a telephone line to initiate an automatic dial-out sequence in response to receiving a message at the remote messaging system (Col. 3, lines 44-50). Thus, Henderson, like Bossemeyer, fails to disclose secure communications and in particular fails to disclose the communication of an encrypted SS7 message indicating that the incoming message awaits retrieval, with a secure server, the SS7 message including indicia identifying the computing device, via a communications line coupled to the computing device, wherein the encryption method is based on a security code corresponding to the communications line, and wherein the security code is shared between the message server and a central office comprising the secure server in the communications system.

The Office Action also relies on Cook for allegedly teaching the encryption of email messages, but Cook, which discusses e-mail encryption, fails to disclose the encryption of an SS7 message indicating that an incoming message awaits retrieval, wherein the SS7 message including indicia identifying the computing device, via a communications line coupled to the computing device, wherein the encryption method is based on a security code corresponding to the communications line, and wherein the security code is shared between the message server and a central office comprising the secure server in the communications system. In fact, Cook does not discuss PSTN communications (e.g., telephone lines or central offices) at all (see for example, Figure 5).

Based on the foregoing discussion, amended independent claims 16 and 30 are allowable over the cited references of record. Furthermore, dependent claims 20, 22-27, 29-30, 34, 36-41, and 43 depend from aforementioned allowable base claims and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 23 and 37 recite additional features which are also not taught, disclosed, or suggested by the combination of

Bossemeyer and Henderson or the other cited references of record. In particular, claims 23 and 37 specify that the communications system includes at least a portion of a public switched telephone network (PSTN) which in turn includes at least a portion of an SS7 network, and wherein the message server is coupled to the SS7 network. Neither Bossemeyer nor Henderson nor Cook, alone or in combination, discloses an SS7 network or a message server coupled to an SS7 network. Therefore, claims 23 and 37 are also allowable over the cited references of record for at least this additional reason.

Claims 21 and 35

Claims 21 and 35 are rejected as being unpatentable over Bossemeyer and Henderson, and further in view of Cook. Claims 21 and 35 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejection of these claims as moot. Therefore, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

The present Amendment is being filed with a request and fee for a one-month extension of time. No additional fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Date: January 18, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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